

turn around and use other moneys to lobby Congress. But we all know that money is fungible and that one of the things that our subcommittee is going to do is track down how that money, in the case of the National Council on Senior Citizens, 95 percent of their funds is actually spent. Does any of it spill over, and is it used for lobbying activities? Does it indirectly subsidize those lobbying activities? Is there an inherent conflict of interest when somebody lobbies for spending, that they turn around and apply to receive as a grant recipient? I think the taxpayer has a right to know, and our committee is committed to getting to the bottom of this issue, making sure that we get through all of the distractions and red herrings and honestly tell the American taxpayers the truth about welfare for lobbyists so that we can put an end to that in this Congress, and we are committed to not doing business as usual, but doing the taxpayers' work and ending welfare for lobbyists once and for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my 5-minute special order scheduled for this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PLO COMPLIANCE WITH MEPFA

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues for allowing me to reclaim my time.

Mr. Speaker, in light of yesterday's signing ceremony at the White House I felt compelled to come to the floor today to comment on an aspect of the Middle East peace process that has troubled me for some time. That subject is the failure of the Palestine Liberation Organization to live up to the solemn commitments to which it agreed when it signed the Declaration of Principles, the DOP with Israel on the White House lawn on January 13, 1993.

It has now been over 2 years since that historic day, a day on which the PLO and its leader, Yasser Arafat, agreed to be held accountable for its actions by the international community in exchange for territorial and administrative concessions by the Government of Israel.

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As witness to the accord, the United States pledged its political, financial,

and moral support to the peace effort, making clear that it expected the PLO to transform itself from a terrorist organization to a lawful administrative entity to be known as the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The United States pledged the sum of \$500 million over 5 years to the PLO to assist the Palestinians living in areas controlled by the PA with their development efforts.

What we have seen over the last 2 years has been a grave disappointment, as the PLO has blatantly violated its commitments under the DOP.

The PLO has failed to prevent terrorism emanating from the territory it controls and has shown little inclination to prosecute known terrorists or to extradite those individuals allegedly responsible for criminal acts inside Israel.

As recent video tapes of Yasser Arafat demonstrate, he continues to exhort his people to violence against Israel and advocates a Jihad—or holy war—to regain Jerusalem. Even as we speak, Arafat is building up a paramilitary force in Gaza nearly three times what was permitted under the DOP, replete with automatic weapons and a modern security apparatus.

Just last week, the Palestinian Ministry of Information issued a statement condemning the Senate's attempt on the fiscal year 1996 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act to institute a small degree of oversight over funds going to the PLO, calling Congress "racist" and its action a demonstration of "hatred towards the Palestinian people, its leadership and its national rights."

As a representative of the American people and a strong supporter of Israel, I am outraged that the PLO would essentially say "Forget you and your money" when we ask them simply to live up to their word. I'm afraid I cannot sit by and hope that the PLO will suddenly decide to abide by the commitments it made 2 years ago. I feel it is my duty to cry foul when I believe the American people are being had and our national interest is at stake.

The administration has mounted a full court press to persuade Congress and the world community that the PLO remains committed to the peace agreement even when their violations are numerous. As a result, the PLO has learned that there are no sanctions for violating their agreements.

That is why I have agreed to cosponsor H.R. 1960, the Middle East Peace Compliance Act of 1995, introduced by my distinguished colleague, MICHAEL FORBES.

In essence, the bill says that should the PLO demonstrate "substantial, material and timely" compliance with its commitments under the DOP as well as with certain requirements under U.S. law, then the President is authorized to transfer funds to Palestinian institutions and activities directly, and not through the PLO or the PA. Only in this way can we ensure that the funds reach the people for whom it is intended.

Further, the PLO would be required to assist U.S. law enforcement agencies in the apprehension and prosecution of any member of that organization responsible for the killing of an American citizen. The bill also requires that U.S. assistance only be used for humanitarian purposes and economic development—no military activities.

Unfortunately, much of the language attached to the Senate foreign operations bill is unenforceable and weak. Yesterday I agreed to an extension of current law for 30 days, with the understanding that the chairman of the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, other interested colleagues, and I will work together to craft language that will bring real oversight and accountability into the process.

Let there be no mistake about my position. I support peace as fervently as any man or woman in this Chamber. What I object to is the process for obtaining peace which requires that we turn our backs on our core national values and our responsibility as guardians of the public purse.

Only the people of Israel have the right to determine the course of their own future. It is our job to see to it that when the history of this extraordinary period is written, we, the people of the United States, have not set aside our values, or standards, or our requirements under law to support a myth, not a fact.

CONGRESS SHOULD STAY AND FINISH ITS WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I was sorry that two people back did not yield, because I wanted to ask a few questions. I think it is very interesting that some folks are so exercised about the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and senior citizens and other people, and called them paid lobbyists and all of this. Yet, when I offered an amendment to try and do the same thing vis-a-vis defense contractor lobbyists and others who were getting 100 percent of their money from the Federal Government, the same folks voted against that. Somehow the Boy Scouts you have to watch every minute, but the defense lobbyists, hey, they are cool, they are our guys. If you think the Boy Scouts and senior citizens have PAC's, you should see what the defense contractors have. You think that the Girl Scouts have clout, you should see what defense contractors have.

In fact, we just saw today a bill rolled out of here \$7 billion over the President's budget, loaded with all sorts of hardware they wanted and golden parachutes and every other such thing. It seems to me if we are going to be really sincere about this, we ought to treat everybody the same, and especially those who are doing it for profit.